

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

*Second Sunday of Advent
Middle School Retreat*

9:30AM—New Member Commission (S211)
9:00AM—Sunday School
10:00AM—Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:00AM—PW Coordinating Team (E102)
12:00PM—Opera Guild (Parlor)
5:30PM—HS FLY Christmas Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:15AM—Personnel Ministry (E205)
9:00AM– 3:00PM– Wood Shop Office Hours
10:00AM—Circle 3 (Member’s Home)
11:00AM—Circle 2 (S211)
12:00PM—The Advent Tree Conversation
(Zoom)
5:30PM—Coordinating Council (E205)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30AM—Men’s Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
9:00AM—Yoga (Parlor)
10:00AM—Circle 1 (Fellowship Hall)
10:30AM—H3 Hunter (E205)
10:30AM—Staff Meeting (E102)
12:00PM—The Advent Tree Conversation
(Zoom)
6:00PM—Circle 4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00AM– 3:00PM– Wood Shop Office Hours
10:00AM—H3-The Chosen (Member’s Home)
11:00AM—B365 Black/Roberts
12:00PM—The Advent Tree Conversation
(Zoom)
4:00PM—Book Discussion (E201)
4:00PM—Stewardship & Administration
(E205)
6:00PM—B365 Skidmore/Beckham (E205)
7:00PM—Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00AM—Yoga (Parlor)
9:30AM—H3 Collins (S211)
12:00PM—FLPCafe (Fellowship Hall)
12:00PM—The Advent Tree Conversation
(Zoom)
1:00PM—Mahjong Group (Library)
6:30PM—Deacons (E205)

2025 FLPC Session

Frank DiSilvestro, Beth Elliott, Jamie George, Stuart Hunter, William Hunter, Ginny Hutchison, Steve Hyman, Tom Leclair, Pete Pigeon, Jane Shear, Tommy Stallings, Rebecca Timmons

Worship Notes

This week, how will I live out God’s patience and God’s kindness? What’s one thing I can do?

***PLEASE BE AWARE** we live stream our worship and our services are video-recorded.

***CHILDCARE** is provided for all infants and children 6 years and younger.

***LARGE PRINT HYMNALS, BIBLES, AND BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE.** Please ask an usher if you would like to use one during our service.

***HEARING SYSTEM** available for those who are hearing impaired. You may bring your own earbuds to plug into the receiver if you would like. Please ask an usher.

***RESTROOMS** are located in the Narthex, the Connecting Point Hallway, and behind the sanctuary adjacent to the elevator. All restrooms are wheelchair accessible. An usher will be glad to direct you.

****PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONE****

Office Hours are Monday– Thursday 8:30–4:30

6500 N. Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206

flpc.org

803-787-5672

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Gentle Mary Laid her Child”
Arr. David Angerman
FLPC Handbell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - **Patience and Kindness**

Amy and T.J. Lillis

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All is not calm! There is more impatience than patience in us and in the world; more meanness than kindness.

So, we light a candle for patience and kindness! Be born anew in our hearts, Lord Jesus!

*HYMN NO. 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from Ruth 1

Holy God, we want to believe, but we continue to struggle with unbelief and a desire for control. Like Ruth’s sister-in-law, Orpah, we return to other “gods” that offer us security. Like Naomi, we are quick to feel abandoned when the harshness of life occurs, forgetting your promise to never leave us. We admire the patience and kindness of Ruth, but our calendars, minds, and selfishness tell us we’re too busy to do the same for all of God’s children. We blame others for making the world less calm but fail to acknowledge our own contributions to chaos. Have mercy on us, O Lord. During this Advent season, we pray our hearts and eyes will be opened and prepared to welcome you once again at the manger. Amen.

The Season of Advent is the beginning of the Christian year, and the season when we begin again to anticipate God’s coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Our task is to prepare our hearts and our lives to welcome this Messiah! This means we must evaluate our lives and hearts, admit that we often seek to worship other gods, and work to humble ourselves and worship God alone. Advent is the season that helps us prepare for a faithful celebration of God’s coming into the world and into our hearts.

The Crismon Trees: Crismon trees are Christmas trees covered with symbols that teach us about Christ’s life, death and resurrection. Each decoration tells a story and reminds us of who Christ is and what God’s plan for the world includes. Please feel free to examine the symbols on the trees.

*When this symbol * precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit. **Bold print** is an invitation for the whole congregation to participate in worship by reading in unison.*

An assurance of pardon is one way of claiming God's promised forgiveness and grace. We believe that when we repent of our sin and ask God to forgive us that God does in fact forgive us. We don't need a preacher or priest to ask on our behalf. God deals with us directly as believers who seek to love and to follow.

Becoming a member of FLPC is an acknowledgement of how important community is to our faith, and helps us witness to the power of disciples of Jesus, all committed to love God, self and others, to change the world. If you would like to know more about how to become a member of FLPC, please speak to one of our pastors or email the church office at contactus@flpc.org.

The Lord's Prayer offers a good summary of much of Jesus' teachings.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 3:23-36 (CEB)

All have sinned and fall short of God's glory, but all are treated as righteous freely by his grace because of a ransom that was paid by Christ Jesus. Through his faithfulness, God displayed Jesus as the place of sacrifice where mercy is found by means of his blood. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness in passing over sins that happened before, during the time of God's patient tolerance. He also did this to demonstrate that he is righteous in the present time, and to treat the one who has faith in Jesus as righteous.

Believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN NO. 121 verse 4 O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS— Liza Barbee, Pierce Butler, Jim & Betsy Hunter, and Sarah Todd

“Blest be the Tie that Binds”

*“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”*

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Children through 1st Grade depart to Room #E-107)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Ruth 1:15-22

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Unfamiliar and Unfair”

Rev. Ed Black

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“What Child Is This?”

Arr. Derek K. Hakes
FLPC Handbell Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*THE DEDICATION

May these gifts, given in gratitude and love,
Change us and the world to serve your purpose!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Confession of 1967
(inclusive language version) 9.15*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

*HYMN NO. 92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG HYMN 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 7

*‘O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strive, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.’*

*POSTLUDE

“Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme”
BVS 140—J.S. Bach
Janet Marks, guest organist

We give to God out of gratitude. And the work of this church depends on your gifts. Offerings may be made online <https://flpc.org/giving/> or use the QR code



The Confession of 1967 addresses the church's role in the modern world. It calls the church to obedient action, particularly in response to social problems such as racial discrimination, nationalistic arrogance, and family and class conflict. It sees the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ as the pattern for the church's mission today and calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Some worshipers find sitting and listening to the musical postlude helps them conclude their worship. Others find joy in greeting others. Choose the response that helps you worship God. And if a fellow worshiper is seated, please allow them time and space to listen and pray.